

## STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Olympia, Washington 98504

RE: Anna Elperin

Master Case No.: M2021-758

Document: Summary Action Order

Regarding your request for information about the above-named practitioner; attached is a true and correct copy of the document on file with the State of Washington, Department of Health, Adjudicative Clerk Office. These records are considered Certified by the Department of Health.

Certain information may have been withheld pursuant to Washington state laws. While those laws require that most records be disclosed on request, they also state that certain information should not be disclosed.

The following information has been withheld: **NONE** 

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the information that was withheld, please contact:

Customer Service Center P.O. Box 47865 Olympia, WA 98504-7865 Phone: (360) 236-4700

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# STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE AND SURGERY

In the Matter of:

Master Case No. M2021-758

ANNA ELPERIN.

Credential No. DO.OP.60576478,

Respondent.

EX PARTE ORDER OF SUMMARY RESTRICTION

PRESIDING OFFICER: Jessica L. Blye, Health Law Judge

BOARD PANEL: Yuri Tsirulnikov, DO, Chair

Kim Morrissette, DO

Sharon Gundersen, Ph.D., Public Member

This matter came before the Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery (Board) on December 27, 2021, on a Motion for Order of Summary Restriction (Motion) brought by the Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery Program of the Department of Health (Department) through the Office of the Attorney General. The Department issued a Statement of Charges alleging Respondent violated RCW 18.130.180(1), (7), and (13); RCW 18.57.150; and WAC 246-853-050(3). The BOARD, after reviewing the Statement of Charges, Motion, and supporting evidence, and using its expertise grants the Motion. CREDENTIAL RESTRICTED pending further action.

#### 1. FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1.1 Respondent is an osteopathic physician and surgeon, credentialed in the state of Washington at all times applicable to this matter.
- 1.2 The Department issued a Statement of Charges alleging Respondent violated RCW 18.130.180(1), (7), and (13); RCW 18.57.150; and WAC 246-853-050(3). The Statement of Charges was accompanied by all other documents required by WAC 246-11-250.
- 1.3 The current Covid-19 vaccines met the United States Food and Drug Administration's rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing

EX PARTE ORDER OF SUMMARY RESTRICTION

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quality needed to support emergency use authorization. The Covid-19 vaccines continue to reduce a person's risk of contracting the virus that causes Covid-19 and are highly effective against severe illness. The Covid-19 vaccines may further prevent the spread of Covid-19 and may prevent the Covid-19 virus from spreading and replicating (allowing it to mutate and possibly become more resistant to vaccines).

- 1.4 On August 9, 2021, Governor Jay Inslee issued an emergency proclamation mandating that most state executive branch employees and on-site contractors and volunteers, along with public and private health care and long-term care workers, must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by October 18, 2021. The proclamation allowed exemptions from the vaccine for those individuals who are entitled to a disability-related reasonable accommodation or a sincerely held religious belief accommodation.
- 1.5 Respondent is alleged to have seen multiple patients for the purpose of providing COVID-19 vaccination exemptions. Respondent's patient records for these patients do not demonstrate medical justification for an exemption as no medical condition was determined or documented. Despite no medical justification, Respondent is alleged to have provided the exemptions to those patients.
- 1.6 Whether or not Respondent believes in vaccines or their efficacy despite national and international evidence of their effectiveness, those beliefs do not mitigate her responsibilities as an osteopathic physician and surgeon. By signing a Covid-19 exemption for an individual without medical necessity, as alleged, Respondent has committed a misleading act that has serious potential negative effects for the individual and the public.
- 1.7 The above allegations, supported by the declaration of Clark Wisswell, Department of Health Investigator, and the expertise of the Board, justify the determination of immediate threat in this case and a decision to immediately restrict the credential until a hearing on the matter is held.

#### 2. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

2.1 The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent's credential to practice as an osteopathic physician and surgeon. RCW 18.130.040.

- 2.2 The Board has authority to take emergency adjudicative action to address an immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare. RCW 18.130.135 and RCW 18.130.050(8).
- 2.3 The Findings of Fact establish the existence of an immediate threat to the public health and safety if Respondent has an unrestricted credential. The Findings of Fact establish that the requested summary restriction is necessary and adequately addresses the danger to the public health and safety.

### 3. ORDER

- 3.1 Based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is ORDERED that Respondent's credential to practice as an osteopathic physician and surgeon is SUMMARILY RESTRICTED. Respondent is prohibited from issuing COVID-19 vaccine exemptions, pending further disciplinary proceedings by the Board.
- 3.2 It is HEREBY ORDERED that a protective order in this case is GRANTED. All healthcare information and non-conviction data contained in the Motion, Declaration, attached exhibits shall not be released except as provided RCW 70.02, RCW 10.97, and WAC 246-11-400.

Dated this 27th day of December, 2021.

Panel Chair

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